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NEWS AND COMMENT

At the annual meeting of the American Historical Association held in Philadelphia during the holidays, subjects of war interest held first place. The collection and preservation of archival and other material for the history of America's participation in the war was discussed both in the conference of archivists and in that of historical societies. Attention was called also to the fact that the pressure for office space in Washington is resulting in the removal and destruction of archival material, some of which is of great historical value, and resolutions were adopted urging the temporary housing of this material in Washington or nearby, in order that it might ultimately be restored to the permanent archives. The situation which has developed serves to emphasize the short-sightedness of the federal government in not having provided long ago for an adequate archives building. Historical societies throughout the country were urged to coöperate in an effort to prevent the further destruction of historical papers. The association selected Minneapolis as the place for the annual meeting in 1918, but the council was authorized to change the meeting place or call off the meeting entirely if the transportation situation or other conditions resulting from the war should make such action advisable.

The opening article in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for December is a suggestive essay on "The Frontier a World Problem," by Carl Russell Fish. Part of this issue is devoted to a translation, with foreword, by Rasmus B. Anderson, of Ole Nattestad's "Description of a Journey to North America." This, with Rynning's "Account of America" in the *BULLETIN* for November, makes available in English two of the rarest and most important sources for the history of the beginnings of Norwegian settlement in the Northwest.

Two new entrants in the field of local history publications are the *Proceedings* of the Historical Society of East and West

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, volume 1 of which, for 1916-17, has been issued as a *Bulletin* of Louisiana State University; and the *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*, a quarterly published by the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, the first number of which is dated January, 1918. It is estimated that more state and local historical publications of a serial character have been started during the last two years than in any preceding ten years.

The State Historical Society of Iowa has published a biography of *Samuel Jordan Kirkwood*, by Dan E. Clark (1917. 464 p.). The fact that Kirkwood was governor of Iowa during the Civil War, makes it especially appropriate that this volume should appear at the present time when the nation and the states are once more exerting all their energies in preparation for a great military struggle.

Number 7 of *Iowa and War* (January, 1918) is entitled *Old Fort Madison—Early Wars on the Eastern Border of the Iowa Country*, by Jacob Van der Zee (40 p.). It consists of a sketch of early Indian difficulties, the Revolution, and the War of 1812 in the upper Mississippi Valley.

The Washington State Council of Defense has appointed war history committees in each of the counties of the state. These committees are said to be "busily at work gathering newspaper clippings, photographs, manuscript and all other records which will be helpful to a thorough study and understanding of the great events when the war is ended. These records are to be deposited in the most central and most adequate public library in each county. . . . Each committee is also working on the basis of patriotic service by providing funds to meet expenses as they arise in the work." A list of the committees is published in the *Washington Historical Quarterly* for January.

Prize Essays Written by Pupils of Michigan Schools in the Local History Contest for 1916-17 (1917. 26 p.) is the title of number 9 of the *Bulletins* of the Michigan Historical Commission. This contest, arranged by the Michigan Daughters of the American Revolution and the Michigan Federation of Women's Clubs, appears to be a very effective device for arousing interest

in local history. The subject assigned was "The First School and the Children who Attended It," in the writer's home city or village.

The American Indian; An Introduction to the Anthropology of the New World (New York, 1917. 435 p.) is the title of what appears to be a scholarly summary of the extant knowledge in this field, by Clark Wissler, curator of anthropology in the American Museum of Natural History, New York. The book contains a valuable bibliography and over a hundred illustrations.

Under the heading, "Men Who Are Winning in the War," *Leslie's Weekly*, for January 12 prints a sketch of Julius H. Barnes of Duluth, now serving as president of the United States Food Administration Grain Corporation. The article is by Samuel Crowther.

In a pamphlet entitled *Erindringer* (1917. 39 p.) John T. Nystuen tells the story of his eventful life from the time he left Norway, in May, 1854, to the present. He includes a description of his voyage from Bergen to Quebec and of his subsequent journey to the Middle West, where, as a pioneer in Wisconsin and Iowa, and later in Minnesota, he experienced the usual hardships incident to the development of a frontier region.

In a work entitled *Danske i Kamp i og for Amerika fra ca. 1640 til 1865* (Omaha, 1917. 397 p.), P. S. Vig discusses the participation of Danes in military events connected with American history. Some of the chapters are concerned with Danish activities in wars "For America in Europe," and "For America" in the colonial period, while others are devoted to the "Danes in the American Revolution," "Danes in the Mexican War, 1846-47," and, lastly, to those who fought in "The Civil War." The book contains a considerable amount of biographical material.

The 1917 number of the *Mistaltenen* contains sketches of some Minnesota Danes in its department headed "Danisk Foretag-somhed" (Danes of Note). This publication is issued annually in the interests of Danish-Americans.

Under the title "Valdriser i Triumph, Minn." the October, 1917, number of the *Samband* publishes Christian Satter's story of his

life from the time he came to Green County, Wisconsin, until he had acquired a large farm in Triumph. Mr. Satter's experiences were typical of those of early settlers with small funds.

The Department of Minnesota, Grand Army of the Republic, has published a pamphlet entitled *The Report of the Committee on the Soldiers' Home* (8 p.), which contains a sketch of the history of this institution from its inception in 1886.

The November 12 issue of the *Freeborn County Standard*, contains several articles of historical interest. An account of "How Albert Lea Got Its Name" is accompanied by a picture of Colonel Albert Miller Lea, whose name was given to the lake from which the city took its name. A sketch of the *Standard* traces the development of that paper from its establishment in 1857 to the present. This is illustrated by pictures of the early editors. An interesting description of Freeborn County in 1857 is reprinted from a contemporary issue of the *Minnesota Star*, which published the article "for the information of those seeking homes in the West, particularly in Freeborn county."

The discovery of a collection of printing samples containing letterheads, billheads, and business cards of former Winona business and professional men prompted William J. Whipple to write a reminiscence article which appears in the December 1 issue of the *Winona Republican-Herald*. Mr. Whipple writes interestingly of men and firms that were prominent in the commercial life of the city a generation ago and concludes with a sketch of the eventful, but unsuccessful, career of the Winona and Southwestern Railroad Company.

In the December 26 issue of the *Mankato Daily Review* Colonel George W. Mead and Benjamin D. Pay tell their recollections of the hanging of the thirty-eight Sioux Indians at Mankato fifty-five years ago. Both men were present at the time; Colonel Mead as a member of the Ninth Minnesota, and Mr. Pay as sheriff. A contemporary picture of the scene accompanies the accounts.

"Local History, Old Crow Wing" is the heading of an article printed in the *Brainerd Dispatch* of December 28, in which the compiler Leon E. Lunn, includes extensive quotations from

William E. Seelye's account of his experiences as a member of the Eighth Minnesota during the Sioux Outbreak. Most of the incidents related center about the early settlement of Crow Wing.

Under the title "Minnesota in the Making" the *Mille Lacs County Times* (Milaca) is printing a series of original narratives of early explorations in Minnesota. Extracts from the accounts of Hennepin, Du Luth, and Radisson have appeared recently.

In commenting upon Sydney A. Patchin's article on "The Development of Banking in Minnesota," in the August number of the MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN, Franklin Curtiss-Wedge reviews the early history of banking in Winona. The *Winona Republican-Herald* of November 24 prints his résumé under the title, "History of Early Bankers Recalls 'Boom' Days When Winona Became Real City."

The November 6 issue of the *Rochester Daily Post and Record* contains a letter from Charles C. Willson, in which he traces the names "College Hill" and "College Street" in the collegeless town of Rochester back to 1856 when plans were made to establish a school, to be known as Huidacooper Institute, in that city.

The *Paynesville Press* of December 6 contains a letter from George R. Stephens, of Oklahoma City, which recounts incidents connected with the establishing of the *Press* thirty years ago.

A biography of James H. Vannet, which is appearing serially in the *Thirteen Towns* (Fosston), describes in some detail the experiences of a Pine County pioneer in the territorial days. Mr. Vannet came to Minnesota in 1841, and the account of his life contains information concerning the relations of the early traders with the Indians and the beginnings of the lumbering industry. The author is W. L. Hilliard.

The *Minneapolis Journal* of January 13 tells of the attempts of early settlers in Minneapolis to stake claims on that part of the Fort Snelling military reserve which is now the business district of the city. A picture of Harwood's old, stone livery stable, which was built on the site of one of these early claims, and one of Second Avenue South in 1857 accompany the article.

Some account of life in pioneer days may be found in a sketch of David Shaver which appears in the *Winona Independent* of November 4. Mr. Shaver came to Dodge County in 1858, and was one of the early settlers in that region.

The *Winona Republican-Herald* of November 1 contains a list of the old settlers in that city and its vicinity who have died in the past twelve years. The compiler is Oliver K. Jones.

An article on "Minnesota Pioneers" appears in the November 30 issue of the *Blue Earth County Enterprise* (Mapleton). The latter part of the article consists largely of the reminiscences of the author, Mrs. O. W. Healy, who recalls incidents of pioneer days in Mapleton.

A suggestive piece of work in the field of local history is a sketch of Twin Valley, which appears in the *Twin Valley Times* of November 28. It was written by Florence Vehle, a pupil in the eighth grade of the Twin Valley schools.

In an article entitled "Chisago County and the War" the *Chisago County Press* (Lindstrom) of December 20 calls attention to the part played by the Scandinavians of Minnesota during the Civil War. In this connection the *Press* reprints from a contemporary issue of the *Hemlandet* an appeal issued by Colonel Hans Mattson "To the Scandinavians of Minnesota," in 1861.

In the August number of the *BULLETIN* (page 209) attention was called to the story of the "White Squaw of Fox Lake Isle" published in a local newspaper and purporting to be based on an old manuscript. It has since developed that this story was a "brain fancy" as the writer has expressed it, and that the old manuscript never existed.

A number of former residents of Waseca living in Minneapolis met together on the evening of December 15 for a general reunion of the "Old Home Folks." It is planned to make this gathering an annual event.

The Carlton County Old Settlers' Association held its annual meeting at Barnum, December 12. An address on the war by Congressman C. B. Miller was the principal speech of the occasion.

Some economic aspects of the "Settlement of Itasca" County are discussed in the December 12 issue of the *Grand Rapids Herald-Review*.

In the issue of October 10 the *Minneapolis Svenska Folkets Tidning* prints an historical sketch of the John W. Thomas Company, one of the older mercantile houses in Minneapolis.

The *New Prague Times* of December 13 introduces a survey of local organizations and commercial interests with a résumé of the history of New Prague.

An interesting sidelight on economic conditions in Minnesota during the Civil War is found in the *St. Peter Free Press* of December 8. This is a list of staples with their wholesale prices in 1865 and their retail prices at the present time. Material for the list was obtained from the books of Auerbach, Finch and Scheffer, St. Paul, for September, 1865.

Under the title "Roses for the Living" the *Le Sueur News* is publishing biographical sketches of men who are leaders in Le Sueur County activities.

A column of "Library Notes" contributed to the *Swift County Review* (Benson) by Ernest R. Aldrich frequently contains material relating to the state's history. The early career of the Universalist Society in Minnesota is discussed in the issue of October 30 in connection with a notice of Rev. Marion D. Shutter's biography of Rev. James Harvey Tuttle. A sketch of General William G. Le Duc and a collection of historical incidents relating to Benson and its vicinity appear on November 20 and 27, respectively.

Students of religious and social history will be interested in the newspaper accounts of special services held by various churches throughout the state, as these articles often include historical sketches of the congregations. A history of the Redwood Falls Methodist Episcopal Church by A. E. King appears in the *Redwood Falls Sun* of November 2 in connection with a description of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the church. A list of the pastors of the church accompanies the article, and some reminiscences of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Ferris

in the November 9 issue of the *Sun* supplement Mr. King's account. The *Alexandria Citizen* in its account of the fiftieth anniversary of the First Congregational Church of that city includes a history of the church and a roll of its pastors. The November 22 issue of the *Sauk Center Herald* contains an account of the work of the Benedictine order in West Union, a work which has extended over a period of twenty-five years and has culminated in the dedication of a new building for the St. Alexius Catholic Church on November 18. Among the articles dealing with Scandinavian churches are the *Fergus Falls Ugeblad's* account of the forty-fifth anniversary celebration of the Fergus Falls Evangelical Lutheran Church in the October 19 issue; a history of the Comfrey Swedish Lutheran Congregation from the time the members left Sweden to the present time, in the *Comfrey Times* for November 29; and a résumé of the twenty-five years of activity of the Mankato Scandinavian Baptist Church in the *Mankato Daily Free Press* of November 28.

Some articles recently published in the section of the *Saturday Evening Post* (Burlington, Iowa) devoted to "The Old Boats" deserve especial attention from students of early river transportation. A biographical sketch of George W. Gauthier, one of the early rivermen, by Fred A. Bill, is printed in the issue of December 15. On the same date appears an article by Captain George Winans in which he tells of his experiences in trying to use, for the first time, a steamboat to tow log rafts down the Mississippi. This account was read at the December 15 meeting of the Pioneer Rivermen's Association in St. Paul, an extended notice of which appears in the *Post* for December 15. In addition to this special section, the *Post*, in its issues of November 17, 24, December 1, and 8, publishes the log of the steamer "Lilly," which was kept by her engineer, Eben B. Hill, during a trip from St. Louis up the Missouri to Fort Benton, and return, in 1867.